

Message Text

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17

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 OES-03 FEA-01 ERDA-05 CIAE-00

EUR-12 H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01

PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 BIB-01 NRC-05 /104 W

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R 020325Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9844

S E C R E T WELLINGTON 1844

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NZ

SUBJ: MULTINATIONAL NUCLEAR CENTERS (MNC)

REF: STATE 154049

1. POSSIBILITY OF ACTIVE GNZ PARTICIPATION IN MNC
APPEARS REMOTE BUT THERE COULD BE AN UNEXPECTED DEGREE
OF PHILOSOPHICAL ACCEPTANCE OF AND SUPPORT FOR THE MNC
IDEA. NEW ZEALAND HAS NO REACTORS AT PRESENT AND,
THEREFORE, NO NEED FOR FUEL. HOWEVER, OFFICIALS CONCERNED
WITH POWER GENERATION SEE NUCLEAR GENERATORS AS NECESSARY
BY ABOUT 1990 AND, WITH THEM, A DEMAND FOR NUCLEAR FUEL.
THERE IS NO INTEREST IN OBTAINING NUCLEAR WEAPONS
OR OTHER NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES.

2. IN GENERAL, NEW ZEALAND HAS AN "ALLERGY" TO THING
NUCLEAR; WITNESS ITS NON-RATE OF DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR
POWER, ITS REFUSAL TO ALLOW NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP
VISITS AND ITS PRESENT EFFORTS WITH REGARD TO A
SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR FREE ZONE. THIS ALLERGY WOULD
CERTAINLY EXTEND TO REFUSING TO ALLOW AN MNC TO BE
ESTABLISHED IN NEW ZEALAND. LACK OF NUCLEAR EXPERTISE
WOULD ALSO WORK AGAINST A NEW ZEALAND-LOCATED MNC.

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3. HOWEVER, GNZ MIGHT BE ATTRACTED BY MNC IDEA AS A WAY TO LIMIT SPREAD OF FACILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY FOR OBTAINING WEAPONS-USABLE NUCLEAR MATERIAL. IF GNZ CAN BE CONVINCED OF NEED FOR EXPANSION OF FACILITIES FOR URANIUM ENRICHMENT AND PLUTONIUM REPROCESSING OUTSIDE OF US OR UK, IT WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY PREFER THIS TO BE DONE ON MULTINATIONAL RATHER THAN NATIONAL BASIS. SELDEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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